



Marine Safety Office San Diego, CA

Media Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CONTACT: LT Darren Hopper

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(619) 683-6499

Protecting the American People and the Port of San Diego

On the anniversary of the September 11th attacks we pause to recognize the sacrifice of the victims and survivors and to express our deepest sympathy to their family and loved ones.

At this time, we also would like to advise you of the Coast Guard's efforts to keep the Port of San Diego safe and secure.

The Coast Guard is a flexible, responsive, and effective organization. Coast Guard people responded immediately to the attacks and the Service has already made significant changes in our structure, policies and operations to ensure the safety of ships, ports, waterways and the American people. As America's premier multi-mission, military, maritime agency, Maritime Homeland Security and Search and Rescue are our top priorities.

Since September 11, 2001 the U.S. Coast Guard in San Diego has successfully implemented a number of measures locally to enhance security within the port, including:

- Establishing the San Diego Port Security Committee. The committee serves as the central coordination forum for port security efforts for Federal, State, and local stakeholders including: the FBI, U.S. Border Patrol, U.S. Navy, U.S. Customs, California Highway Patrol, San Diego County Sheriff, the San Diego Port Authority, San Diego Police Department, and Harbor Patrol.
- Implemented a vigorous Sea Marshal program where armed Coast Guard boarding teams provide positive control of commercial cargo ships. Sea Marshals have safely escorted over 700 vessels within the Port of San Diego since September 11th.

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- Screened over 350 arriving foreign vessels under the Coast Guard's High Interest Vessel program.
- Escorted every calling cruise ship into and out of the Port of San Diego.

- Created Operation Port Watch, a neighborhood watch program for the San Diego area bays and coast where boaters can report suspicious activities to the Coast Guard by phone (800-854-9834) or fax (619-683-6474). Operation Port Watch has produced 637 contacts with the Coast Guard since it's inception. More information can be found on U. S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Office San Diego's website at www.uscg.mil/d11/sandiego/mso.
- Established and enforced no-entry Security Zones around San Diego U. S. Navy installations and the San Onofre Nuclear Power Generating Station. Escorted and enforced no-entry naval force protection zones around all U.S. Navy vessels.
- Activated more than 24 Reservists to assist in Maritime Homeland Security missions.

In addition to Maritime Homeland Security duties the Coast Guard has continued performing it's wide range of emergency response, regulatory, and public safety duties. Since Sept. 11th Coast Guard men and women of San Diego have:

- Effectively responded to more than 415 Search and Rescue cases, utilizing aircraft, vessels and Coast Guard Auxiliary platforms.
- Saved 88 lives and assisted an additional 675 mariners.
- Saved or otherwise assisted property worth more than \$4.7 million.
- Inspected over 500 U. S. and foreign flag commercial vessels for compliance with applicable U. S. and international laws and regulations.
- Responded to more than 390 pollution and marine casualty incident investigations.

A lot has been done but more work remains. The men and women of the Coast Guard in San Diego remain fully committed to work together with other federal, state, and local authorities to ensure the safety and security of the people of San Diego and its nationally significant port.

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